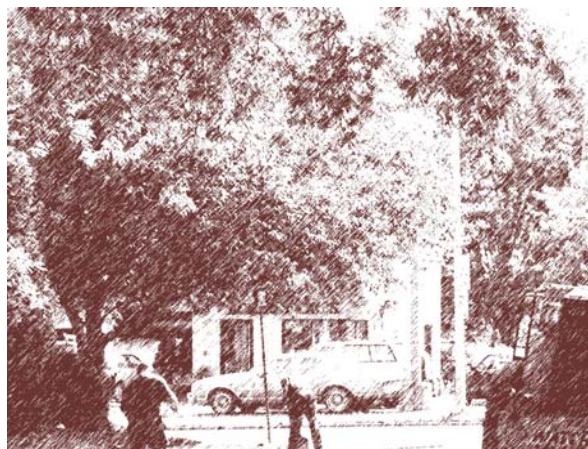


The Department of Public Works, Street Services Division, maintains city streets to allow for the safe and efficient movement of traffic. This maintenance includes emergency repairs of potholes, sinkholes and other pavement failures; street reconstruction to include repaving; and general preventive maintenance such as crack sealing.

Permanent road repairs can only be done during the warmer months (roughly April to October) as the bituminous used to do the repair is dependent on temperature and only available during those months. Winter repairs to roads are temporary; potholes are repaired using a substance called "cold patch" which provides a temporary repair until warm weather returns when a permanent repair can be made. "Cold patch" however, is not durable and can be washed out of the pothole during a rain event.

Utility work done on roads is a major reason for road failure in Hartford. Unsealed road cuts allow water penetration and subsequent freezing and thawing in winter months. This freezing and thawing breaks up the bituminous material and forms potholes.



Preventive Maintenance

Preventive maintenance programs are meant to extend road life by preventing water from entering the bituminous layer of the roadway. These programs, if done regularly and effectively, make the need for total street reconstruction less frequent. The following programs are used in Hartford:

Crack sealing. Cracks on the road surface are sealed using a liquid tar like sealant which hardens and prevents water penetration.

Cut and patch. Badly deteriorated sections of roadways are cut out and a permanent bituminous restoration done. This is a less expensive option than resurfacing the entire road.

Resurfacing. The roadway is "milled" and then repaved. "Milling" is a process done by a special

machine that cuts away the top layer of the road leaving a rough surface. Newly laid bituminous thus has an irregular surface to bond to.

Frequently Asked Questions

How does the city determine which streets to schedule for resurfacing and/or reconstruction work?

Street resurfacing and reconstruction is done to those streets needing it most within the limits of available funding. Streets that carry heavy traffic generally will be repaired at a higher priority than streets that have minimal traffic.

How do I get a pothole repaired?

If you see or hit a pothole on city streets, note the location and call it in for repair to the Public Works dispatcher at 543-8765.

If the street is raised (or low) and causes water to pond, will the city fix it?

The city will schedule repair for road defects such as these as they occur.

What causes bumps and ruts at intersections and bus stops?

Bumps in intersections are caused by vehicle tires “digging” into the asphalt when they start to accelerate from a stop. This can occur especially during hot weather when the asphalt softens. Bus weight causes this to occur frequently at bus stops.

Why do I have to wait eight to ten years to have my street fixed?

Generally, streets are repaired dependent on their level of need and available funds. Any road conditions that would cause a hazard, such as pot holes, are fixed immediately.

There are a lot of depressions and rough spots where the street has been dug up. Why doesn't the city fix them?

Many depressions, cuts and rough spots are caused by utility work; examples include the gas, water, electric and cable companies. When these companies are issued a permit to do this work, they commit to restoring the road surface to city specifications. Permanent restorations done on winter work are usually accomplished the following summer season. Public Works monitors work done by the utilities and follows up to ensure that

the permanent restoration is actually done. Any road failures that occur prior to permanent restoration will be made safe for the public by the city.

Emergency Services

Conditions warranting immediate repair so as not to pose a hazard to motorists are treated as emergencies. Examples of this are sinkholes, larger potholes and street flooding.

To report a road emergency, call the Public Works dispatcher at 543-8765. Serious road emergencies after hours should be called into 911.

Pavement Maintenance

CITY OF HARTFORD
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
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